

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants have received and carefully reviewed the Final Office Action of the Examiner mailed January 4, 2006. Claims 20 and 31 have been amended, and claims 22-25 have been canceled without prejudice as being drawing to an unelected invention. Support for the amendments can be found in the specification, claims, and drawings as originally filed. No new matter has been added. Claims 1-14, 18-20, 27, and 29-32 remain pending. Reconsideration and examination are respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 1-14, 17-19, 27, 29, 30, and 32 are allowed.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 20 and 31 are rejected as being anticipated by Brzezinski et al. (US 4,541,328). This is a new ground(s) of rejection first introduced in the Final Office Action. Applicants have amended claims 20 and 31 to overcome the rejection. Applicants would appreciate it if the Examiner would consider these amendments, even though we are now after final.

Claims 20 and 31, as amended, recite a damper vane including a vane body formed from a single sheet that is bent to form the first and second ribs. Brzezinski et al. do not appear to teach such a damper vane. Brzezinski et al. teach a damper "vane 23, 25 is formed of two rigid sheets 29" that "may have corrugations 35 for stiffening. Brzezinski et al. thus do not teach each and every element of claims 20 and 31 as amended. Additionally, there is no motivation for one of ordinary skill in the art to modify their damper vane to be made of a single sheet because Brzezinski et al. specifically teach the damper vane being formed of a pair of rigid sheets to provide stiffening. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

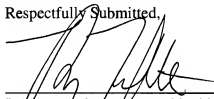
Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 20 and 31 are rejected as being unpatentable over Cary et al. or Klingberg in view of Brzezinski et al. This is also a new ground(s) of rejection first introduced in the Final Office

Action. None of Cary et al., Klingberg, or Brzezinski et al. teach or suggest a damper vane formed from a single sheet, as is recited by claims 20 and 31 as amended. Thus, any combination of the references must fail to teach or suggest each and every element of these claims as amended. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Reconsideration and examination are respectfully requested. Applicants submit that the pending claims are now in condition for allowance. If a telephone interview would be of assistance, please contact the undersigned attorney at 612-359-9348.

Respectfully Submitted,



Date: March 2, 2006

Brian N. Tufte, Reg. No. 38,638
CROMPTON, SEAGER & TUFTE, LLC
1221 Nicollet Avenue, Suite 800
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55403-2420
Telephone: 612-677-9050
Facsimile: (612) 359-9349